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**Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**WIFA Chairman Steve Owens Announces  
\$1 Million Consolidation Loan to Assist Mount Lemmon  
Fire Recovery Efforts**

PHOENIX (Sept. 19, 2003) – Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona Chairman Steve Owens today announced Board approval of a \$1 million consolidation loan for the Mount Lemmon Domestic Water Improvement District as part of the state's effort to assist with long-term recovery from the Aspen Fire.

In June, Owens authorized the suspension of payments required by the former Mount Lemmon Water Cooperative while the group finalized formation of the water district with technical assistance grant funds from WIFA.

The new \$1 million WIFA loan increases the amount available to aid in reconstruction of the drinking water system with \$531,000 for new construction. A previous WIFA loan for \$350,000 and \$215,000 of outstanding principal from a USDA Rural Development loan are also consolidated into the single loan agreement with low interest payments.

"Governor Napolitano and I are very focused on the needs of this community in dealing with the long-term recovery efforts from the devastating Aspen Fire," said Owens, who is also director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. "The state will continue to take the necessary steps to assist Mount Lemmon water users to recover from their losses."

**Background**

WIFA is an independent state agency that administers the Clean Water Revolving Fund for wastewater and water reclamation construction projects. It also administers the Drinking Water Revolving Fund for drinking water construction projects. Both funds get their money from federal and state sources. Interest rates are typically below market rates.

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